IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-51 (Cancelled).

52. (Currently amended) A method for device management in a grouped server system, comprising:

creating a request to control for a device on a desktop unit fromvia a device service on at least one of a first server and a second server;

transferring said request from a first device manager in said first server to a second device manager in said second server, said first device manager being coupled to said device service;

allocating said device to said device service via said second device manager; and

informing said first device manager of said allocation via said second device manager;

wherein said device service controls said device by implementing a complete device driver for said device.

53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, wherein said request comprises desired capabilities for said device.

54.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 52, wherein said first server and said second server operate in a group, further comprising:

establishing a first communication path between said first device manager and said second device manager; and

establishing a second communication path between said device on said desktop unit and said second device manager.

55.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein said establishing said first communication path comprises receiving a group list, said group list comprising grouping information of device managers in said group.

56.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein said establishing said second communication path comprises said desktop unit arbitrarily connecting to said second device manager.

57.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
creating a first device list via said first device manager; and
creating a second device list via said second device manager;
wherein said first device list is segregated from said second device list.

58.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by said first device manager.

59.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by both of said first device manager and said second device manager and wherein said second device list comprises device records for devices managed by said second device manager.

60.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by said first device manager and peer device managers in said grouped server system.

61.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 60, wherein said grouped server system comprises said first device manager, said second device manager, said peer device managers, said desktop unit, and a plurality of other desktop units all coupled to each other via an interconnect, further comprising:
    identifying which device manager manages which device.

62.   (Currently amended) The method of any of Claim 52, further comprising:
    creating a finder in accordance with said request via said first device manager;
    wherein said finder comprises a pattern of registered devices to be controlled by said device service.

63.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 62, further comprising:
    searching a first device list coupled to said first device manager for a device matching said registered devices of said finder.

64.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 63, further comprising:
    storing said finder in said first server.

65.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 64 52, wherein said transferring said request to said second device manager comprises said second device manager creating a second finder in accordance with said request.

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66.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 65, further comprising:

searching a second device list coupled to said second device manager for a device matching said second finder.

67.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 65, further comprising:

storing said second finder locally in said second server.

68.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:

determining which device manager manages said device; and

informing said device service of said managing device manager.

69.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 52, wherein said desktop unit does not have built-in knowledge to directly control said device and wherein a user of said desktop unit needs said device service to operate said device on said desktop unit.

70.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:

creating a first device list in said first server via said first device manager; and

creating a second device list in said second server via said second device manager;

time stamping a first time-stamp on said first device list and a second time-stamp on said second device lista message generated at said desktop unit;

wherein said message is used to determine which device manager manages said device on said desktop unit.said transferring said request to said second device manager comprises said second device manager replacing said second device list in said second server by said first device list in said first server if said second time-stamp is earlier than said first time-stamp.

71.   (Currently amended)   The method of Claim 70, wherein said time stamping occurs when said <u>first and second time lists are created</u>message is generated.

72.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, further comprising:
maintaining a universal clock among all servers in said grouped server system;
wherein said time stamping is based on said universal clock.

73.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
determining which device manager manages said device; and
forwarding said request to said determined device manager that manages said device.

74.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said determined device manager that manages said device is located in one server and said service is located in another server.

75.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said first server comprises a first device list, said first device list comprising a device record for said device, further comprising:
transferring said device record to said second device manager in said second server; and
updating a second device list to include said device record via said second device manager.

76.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 75, further comprising:

matching said request with said device record in said second device list;

wherein said determining which device manager manages said device is determined from said second device list.

77.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:

generating a device list for said first manager and said second device manager;

wherein said device list comprises devices managed by a device manager; and

wherein said device list further comprises devices managed by peer device managers, further comprising:

transferring device data between said peer device managers.

78.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:

maintaining a persistent connection between said desktop unit and a single device manager.

79.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 78, further comprising:

establishing a first communication path between said desktop unit and said first device manager; and

terminating said first communication path; and

establishing a second communication path between said desktop unit and said second device manager when an event occurs.

80.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 79, wherein said event comprises resetting said desktop unit.

81.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 79, wherein said event comprises failure of said first device manager.

82.   (Currently amended) A grouped server system, comprising:

an interconnect;

a plurality of servers, each of said servers having a device manager;

a plurality of device services _for implementing device drivers_ located on said servers;

a plurality of desktop units coupled to said servers via said interconnect, each desktop unit being coupled to one of said device managers; and

a plurality of peripheral devices located on said desktop units;

wherein said device managers on said servers broker _controls of_ said peripheral devices on said desktop units ~~by~~to said device services on said servers; and

wherein said device managers are operating in a group.

83.   (Currently amended) The grouped server system of Claim 82, wherein each of said device managers is coupled to a device list and wherein said_device ~~devices~~ lists are segregated from each other.

84.   (Previously presented) The grouped server system of Claim 83, wherein each of said device lists comprises data of peripheral devices managed by said device manager coupled to said device list.

85.   (Previously presented) The grouped server system of Claim 84, wherein said device list further comprises data of devices managed by peer device managers coupled to said device list.

86.   (Currently amended) The grouped server system of Claim _83_ ~~82~~, further comprising a universal time clock for time stamping _said device list as it is generated to ensure that said device list coupled to each of said device managers is not outdated_~~messages indicating which device manager is managing which desktop unit~~.

87.   (Previously presented) The grouped server system of Claim 82, wherein each of said device managers can be used to broker a peripheral device managed by a first device manager to a device service coupled to a peer device manager.

88.   (Currently amended)   The grouped server system Claim 82, further comprising a finder comprising scoping rules for a type of said peripheral devices from at least one of said device services.

89.   (Previously presented) The grouped server system Claim 82, wherein at least one of said device services is coupled to at least one of said device managers, said at least one of said device services communicating a first device report and a first allocation request with said at least one of said device managers.

90.   (Currently amended) The grouped server system of Claim 89, wherein said at least one of said device services is coupled to at least one of said plurality of desktop units, said at least one of said device services communicating device data of at least one said plurality of peripheral devices with said at least one of said plurality of desktop units via said at least one of said device managers.

91.   (Previously presented) The grouped server system of Claim 90, wherein said at least one of said device managers is coupled to said at least one of said plurality of desktop units, said at least one of said device managers communicating a second device report and a second allocation request with said at least one of said plurality of desktop units.

92.   (Currently amended) The grouped server system Claim 82, <u>wherein each of said plurality of device services can implement a complete device driver,</u> wherein each of said device managers can provide <u>said</u>a device driver<u>, wherein said device driver remotely controls</u>-for at <u>least one of said</u> peripheral device<u>s</u> managed by other device managers in said grouped server system, wherein each of said device managers can maintain a first database comprising device data and a second database comprising scoping rules <u>for said at least one peripheral device</u> from at <u>least one of said</u> device service<u>s</u>, wherein each of said device managers can search for a match between said first database and said second database, and wherein each of said device managers can forward a request to other device managers in said grouped server system if no match is found.

93.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium for implementing an instruction set for maintaining a persistent connection between <u>a device located on</u> a desktop unit and a single device manager<u> for interfacing a device service with the device, the computer readable medium</u> comprising:

a first instruction set for establishing a first communication path between said desktop unit and a first device manager; and

a second instruction set for establishing a second communication path between said desktop unit and a second device manager when an event occurs;

<u>wherein said device comprises one of a keyboard, a mouse, a speaker, a scanner, and a microphone;</u>

wherein said event comprises failure of said first device manager;

wherein said first device manager and said second device manager operate in a group;

wherein <u>said</u>a device service for<u> implements a driver to control</u> said device<u> and is</u> can be located in a first server; and

wherein said second device manager is located in a second server and said first device manager is located in said first server.